

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIU

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

GAME1: SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024 | 6:00 P.M. |BRAGG MEMORIAL STADIUM [25,500] | TALLAHASSEE ,FL

### **2024 BULLDOG SCHEDULE**



FLORIDA A&M Aug.31| 6:00 p.m. Tallahassee, FL



THE CITADEL Sept.7| 12 noon Charleston, SC



GA. SOUTHERN Sept.14| 6:00 p.m. Statesboro, GA



N.C. A&T STATE

Sept.28| 6:00 p.m. Orangeburg,SC



TENNESSEE TECH Oct.5| 1:30 p.m. Cookeville, Tenn.



FORT VALLEY ST.

Oct.19 | 2:00 p.m. Orangeburg,SC



DELAWARE ST.\*

Oct.26 | 3:30 p.m. Orangeburg, SC



NC CENTRAL\*

Oct.31 | 7:00 p.m. Orangeburg, SC



HOWARD\* Nov.9 | 3:30 p.m. Washington, DC



MORGAN STATE\* Nov.16 | 1:00 p.m. Baltimore, MD



NORFOLK ST\*
Nov. 23rd | 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 23rd | 1:30 p.m. Orangeburg, SC

#### **GAME COVERAGE**

TV: ESPN+

**RADIO:**WPJK 1580 AM and 92.9 FM in Orangeburg

Internet: https://zeno.fm/WPJKAM/

Via phone: (641) 552-5120 **LIVE STATS:** N/A

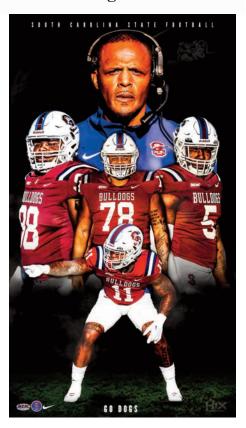
LOCATION: Bragg Memorial Stadium

KICKOFF:6:00 PM (EST)

#### **ABOUT THE GAME**

- SC State leads the series 8-3 dating back to 2002. The last time the two teams met FAMU defeatd SC State 20-14 in Orageburg, SC on Oct. 8th, 2022.
- ■SC State head coach Chennis Berry enter his first season as head coach of the Bulldogs.
- ■Florida A&M enters its first season of head coach James Colzie III's tenure.

# Visit www.scsuathletics.com for more information on Bulldog Football



#### THE MATCHUP





#### FLORIDA A&M

RECORD 1-0, SWAC, 0-0 RANKING (STATS/Coaches)

LAST GAME

Aug. 23, 2024 Won vs. Norfolk State (25-24)

#### SC STATE

RECORD 0-0, MEAC, 0-0 RANKING (STATS/Coaches). NA LAST GAME Nov. 18, 2023 Won vs. Norfolk

#### **INSIDE LOOK**

#### **2023 RECAP**

Sacks......37-225

#### **2023 RECAP**

State (44-17)

#### **THE COACHES**

#### **SC STATE BULLDOGS**

**Head Coach:** Chennis Berry (Savannah State, 1994)

Career Record: 0-0 (1st season)
Record at SCSU: 0-0 (1st season)
Home: 0-0 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0

#### FLORIDA A&M RATTLERS

Head Coach: James Colzie III

(Florida State, 1993)

Career Record: 1-0 (1st season)
Record at FAMU: 1-0 (1st season)
Home: 0-0 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0



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MEDIA SCHEDULE  SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BULLDOGS									
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY			
OFF DAY MEAC Coaches Weekly Video Call Bulldog Weekly Press Conference Chennis Berry	PRACTICE Players and Coaches Only Available After Practice Upon Request	PRACTICE Players and Coaches Only Available After Practice Upon Request	PRACTICE Players and Coaches Only Available After Practice Upon Request	NO INTERVIEWS  Day before game  Coachs and players not available	GAMEDAY Players and Coaches Only Available During POSTGAME	PRACTICE Players and Coaches Only Available After Practice Upon Request			

#### OFFICE OF ATHLETIC STRATEGIC COMMUNICATOINS & MARKETING | DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS SC STATE





#### KENDRICK D. LEWIS

Assistant AD for Strategic Communications

**Cell:** 803.747.3971

Email: Klewis19@scsu.edu

Office: 803.536.8227 Twitter @SCStateSID

#### **MEDIA CREDENTIALS**

Media credentials for South Carolina State must be requested through SCSU's official website. To begin the process, visit www.scsuathletics.com and under inside athletes, search Media Information. Only media covering the Bulldogs on a consistent basis and on assignment will be considered for season credentials. A lost season credential will result in credentials being issued on a game-by-game basis as available.

Thank you for your coverage of the South Carolina State Bulldogs and Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) football. Please let us know if we can assist your efforts at any time during the football season. The following is the list of policies and procedures of the SC State University Athletic Strategic Communications Office. Please contact the SC State Athletic Strategic Communications Office with any questions or concerns.

Kendrick D. Lewis (Klewis19@scsu.edu), Assistant AD for Strategic Communications, will serve as the primary contact for SC State football. All coaches/player interviews must be requested to him, and should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

#### PLAYER INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY

All interviews with SC State student-athletes should be coordinated through the Athletic Stratgeic Communications Office. During the season, SCSU players are available after practices. No interviews will be conducted during practice. Telephone and/or Zoom interviews may be arranged by contacting Kendrick D. Lewis in the Athletic Communications Office. ALL interview requests should be made at least 48 hours in advance. SC State's first-year players (true freshmen) are not available for interviews.

#### **COACH INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY**

Interviews with first-year Bulldog head coach Chennis Berry should also be arranged through the Athletic Communications Office. Head coach Chennis Berry is available for interviews throughout the week, after practices and after the conclusion of games. Telephone interviews with the head coach can be arranged by contacting the Athletic Communications Office. As with the student-athletes, interview re-

quests should be made at least 48 hours in advance.

# COACH CHENNIS BERRY WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE

SC State head football coach Chennis Berry will meet with the media on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. during his weekly press conference inside Staley Hall room 204 (Media Room).

#### PRACTICE AVAILABILITY

SC State's football practices are open to the public and media. The first portion of the workouts (generally the first 15-20 minutes) is open to photographers. Members of the media planning to shoot practice should contact the SC State Athletic Communications Office in advance to confirm arrangements and practice times.

#### PRACTICE LOCATION

The Bulldogs practice inside Oliver C. Dawson Stadium.



OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUN

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# COACH BERRY INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES PRESS CONFERENCE

Coach Chennis Berry will hold a weekly press conferences during the season for additional information, contact the Office of Athletic Strategic Communications and Assistant AD for Strategic Communications & Marketing Kendrick D. Lewis at KLewis 19@scsu.edu.

#### POST-GAME INTERVIEWS

Coach Berry, coaching staff, and players will be available after a brief cooling off period. Home post-game interviews are conducted either on the field or in the SC State football interview room located adjacent to the home locker room. The visiting coach is available in the visitor locker room area, with assistance from the visiting SID.





### **Bulldog Football Radio Network**

with play-by-play announcer
Ernest Robinson and
analyst William "Bill" Hamilton
Over the Air: WPJK 1580 AM
and 92.9 FM in Orangeburg
Internet: https://zeno.fm/WPJKAM/
Via phone: (641) 552-5120



#### **UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

LOCATION: Orangeburg, SC

FOUNDED: 1896 ENROLLMENT: 2,650 NICKNAME: Bulldogs

SCHOOL COLORS: Garnet and Blue AFFILIATION: NCAA Division I CONFERENCE: Mid-Eastern Athletic

Conference (MEAC)

 $\textbf{STADIUM}|\ Oliver\ C.\ Dawson\ Bulldog\ Stadium$ 

FIELD: Willie E. Jeffries Field

CAPACITY|22,000 SURFACE| Poly Turf

NATIONAL AFFILIATION | NCAA-FCS PRESIDENT: COL (Retired) Alexander Conyers

**ALMA MATER: SC State** 

VP FOR ATHLETICS: Dr. Nathan Cochran

#### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT PHONE

 $803\text{-}536\text{-}7242|\mathbf{OFFICE}\;\mathbf{FAX}|803\text{-}536\text{-}8622$ 

**Asst. AD for Strategic Communications** 

Kendrick D. Lewis

EMAIL|KLewis19@scsu.edu

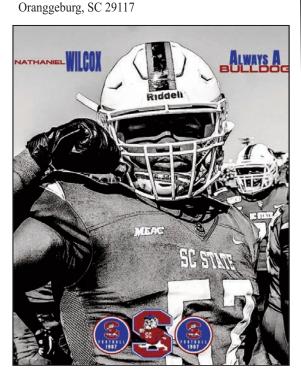
**OFFICE PHONE**| 803-536-8227

**CELL PHONE**|803-747-3971

ATHLETICS WEBSITE| www.scsuathletics.com

#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

SC State University
Office of Atheltic Strategic Communications
300 College Street, NE
P.O. Box 7128



IN LOVING MEMORY OF A TRUE BULLDOG



#### **FOOTBALL HISTORY**

First Season of Football|1907 All-Time Record|460-298-28 Years in Postseason Bowl|7-7 Last Post-Season Bowl Appearance|2021 vs. Jackson State| SC State 31, JSU 10-Final MEAC Championships|18 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974

**Black National Championships** 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

#### HEAD COACH CHENNIS BERRY

ALMA MATER: SAVANNAH STATE RECORD AT SCHOOL: 1st Season CAREER RECORD (3 YRS): 27-7 BEST TIME TO REACH: Through Office of Athletic Strategic Communicaitons

#### ASSISTANT COACHES

Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks

(1st Season)

Johnathan Williams

Jordan Odaffer (1st Season) Defensive Coordinator/Linebackers Connor Loper (1st Season) Tight Ends **Gary Howard** (1st Season) Defensive Line **Kevin King** (1st Season) Special Teams Coordinator/Safeties Michael Styles, Jr. (1st Season) Cornerbacks Na'Shan Goddard (7th Season) Offensive Line David Blanchard (28th Season) Defensive Tackles/Player Development/ Director of Alumni Relations Rashard Alston (1st Season) Running Backs Coach DJ Boldin (1st Season) Wide Receivers LaTroy Johnson (1st Season) Assistant AD for Football/Chief of Staff (6th Season) **Chris Parrott** Recruiting/Academics Marcus Hicks (1st Season) Video and Multimedia for Football

#### **TEAM INFORMATION**

2023 OVERALL RECORD|5-6 2023 MEAC Record /Finish| 3-2|T-2nd BASIC OFFENSE| Multiple /Pro I BASIC DEFENSE| Multiple 4

#### RETURNING LEADERS

RUSHING	ATT.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
Josh Shaw	78	405	5.0	2
RECEVING	REC.	YDS.	AVG.	TD
Justin Brown-Sn	nith 22	357	16.40	3
Justin Diowii-Bii	11111 22	551	10.70	

#### TACKLES

DATE

**Aaron Smith** 

UT AT TT TFL SACK INT 47 16 63.0 11.0-51 5.0-35

#### **KEY RETURNEES**

OL Nick Taiste, OL Eric Brown, Jr, OL Cam Johnson, TE Keshawn Toney, LB Aaron Smith, DL Octaven Minter

#### 2023 RESULTS (5-6, 3-2 MEAC)

**RESULTS** 

**OPPONENT** 

8/26	at Jackson State	L, 7-37
9/2	at Charlotte	L, 3-24
9/9	at Georgia Tech	L, 13-48
9/23	THE CITADEL	W, 31-10
10/7	VIRGINIA-LYCHBURG	W, 56-6
10/14	TENNESSEE TECH	L, 7-28
* 10/21	DELAWARE ST.	W, 35-7
* 10/26	at NCCU	L, 28-62
* 11/4	HOWARD	W, 27-24
* 11/11	MORGAN STATE	L, 17-20
* 11/19	at Norfolk State	W, 44-17
* = Conf	ference game	

#### 2024 BULLDOG SCHEDULE

DATE	<b>OPPONENT</b>	TIME
8/31	at FAMU	6:00 PM
9/7	at The Citadel	12 Noon
9/14	at Georgia Southern	6:00 PM
9/28	N.C. A&T STATE	6:00 PM
10/5	at Tennessee Tech	1:30 PM
10/19	FT. VALLEY STATE	2:00 PM
* 10/26	DELAWARE STATE@	1:30 PM
* 10/31	NC CENTRAL	7:00 PM
* 11/9	at Howard	3:30 PM
* 11/16	at Morgan State	1:00 PM
* 11/23	NORFOLK ST.	1:30 PM

@ SC State Homecoming

\*\* MEAC Contest| Home Games in BOLD| Games, dates, times and locations are subject to change.

OLIVER C. DAWSON 1, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975

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# **2023 MEAC Postseason Football Honors |SC State Bulldogs**

#### **First Team Offense**

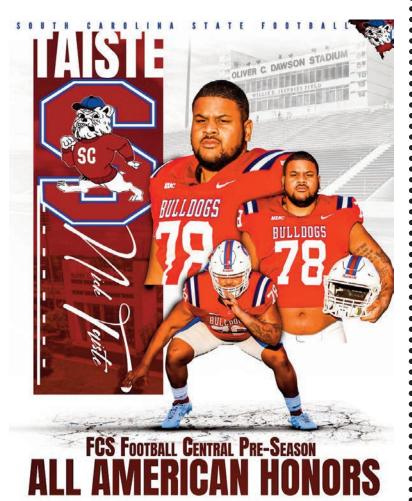
Pos.NameHometownOLNick TaisteWest Columbia, S.C.TEKeShawn ToneyWilliston, S.C.

#### **Second Team Offense**

Pos.NameHometownOLCam JohnsonIrmo, S.C.OLEric Brown, Jr.Hartsville, S.C.

#### **Second Team Defense**

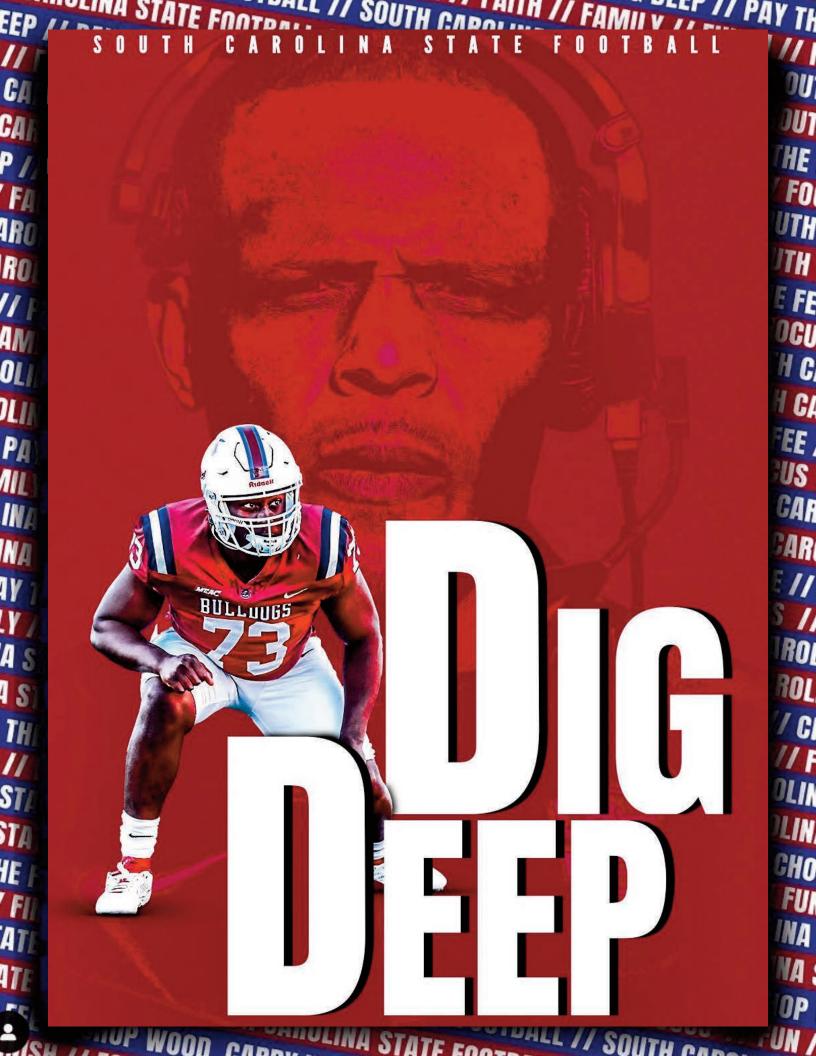
Pos.NameHometownLBAaron SmithManning, S.C.





### SC State MEAC Defensive Players of the Year

1 laye	
Harry Carson	1974
Harry Carson	1975
Robert Sims	1976
<b>Bobby Moore</b>	1978
Phil Murphy	1979
John Alford	1980
John Courtney	1982
Barney Bussey	1983
Robert Porcher	1991
Joe Montford	1993
Jermaine Derricot	1998
David Erby	2010
Joe Thomas	2013
Javon Hargrave	2014
Javon Hargrave	2015
Darius Leonard	2016
Darius Leonard	2017
Decobie Durant	2021

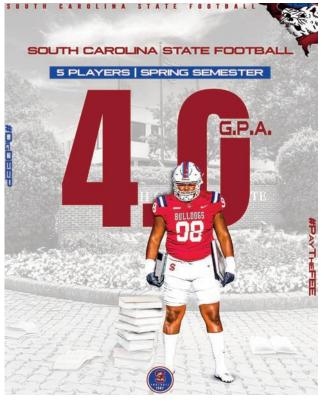


OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

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1907

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

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## COACHING STAFF



Chennis Berry Head Coach



JOHNATHAN
WILLIAMS
Offensive
Coordinator/
Quarterbacks



JORDAN
ODAFFER
Defensive
Coordinator/
Linebackers



CONNOR LOPER Tight Ends



GARY HOWARD Defensive Line



KEVIN
KING
Special Teams Coordinator/
Safeties



MICHAEL STYLES, JR. Cornerbacks



NA'SHAN GODDARD Offensive Line



RASHARD ALSTON Running Backs



DEMIR "DJ"
BOLDIN
Wide Receivers



CHRIS
PARROTT
Director of
Recruiting/
Academic
Coordinator



DAVID
BLANCHARD
Defensive Tackles/
Director of Player
Development/Director
of Alumni Relations



LATROY JOHNSON Assistant AD for Football/ Chief of Staff

1907

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

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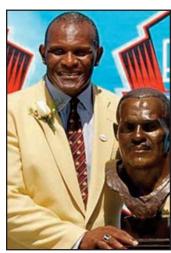
# **BULLDOG BITES** | WHERE LEGENDS ARE BUILT



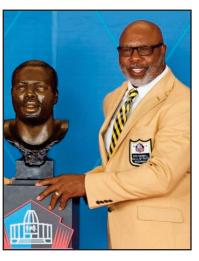




**Deacon Jones '80** 



Harry Carson '06



Donnie Shell '20



# **NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE HALL OF FAMERS**



## **BULLDOGS ON CURRENT NFL ROSTERS**



Darius Leonard-LB Free Agent



Javon Hargrave-NT San Francisco 49ers



Antonio Hamilton-DB
Atlanta Falcons



Shaquan Davis-WR Philadelphia Eagles



DECOBIE DURANT L.A. RAMS

**MEAC CHAMPIONS:** 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; **HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

### 2024 SC State Bulldog Tentative Numerical Roster

2024 Se State Dundog Tentative Numerical Roster						RUSTEI	
No#.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Previous School
0	Josh Barker	DL	So.	5-9	255	Kennesaw, GA	Benedict College
0	Caden High	WR	So.	5-10	160	Grayson, GA	Grayson/Benedict
1	Einaj Carter	WR	Sr.	5-8	178	Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	East Tennessee St.
1	Jayden Broughton	DL	Sr.	6-2	235	Monks Corner, SC	Benedict
2	Diego Addison	DB	Sr.	6-2	175	Columbia, SC	AC Flora/Benedict
2	Ryan Stubblefield	QB	Sr.	6-0	205	Houston, TX	UIW-Incarnate Word
3	Marquis Bradley	DB	So.	6-2	190	Gaffney, SC	Gaffney HS
3	Deondra Duehart	RB	Jr.	6-0	215	Macon, GA	Palmetto Prep/Benedict
4	Dathan Peterson	DB	Sr.	5-10	190	Merritt Island, FL	Benedict
4	Deyandre Ruffin	WR	Gr.	6-2	205	Savannah, GA	Allen
5	Jamare Benjamin	DB	Sr.	6-2	180	Spartanburg, SC	Spartanburg HS
5	Keshawn Toney	TE	Gr.	6-3	255	Williston, SC	Chattanooga
6	Justin Smith-Brown	WR	Sr.	6-1	190	Cocoa, Fla.	Space Coast HS
6	Brenyen Scott	DB	Jr.	6-1	205	Ruskin, FL	Temple
7	Eric Phoenix	QB	Sr.	6-3	210	Savannah, GA	Murray State
7	Zan Dunham	LB	Jr.	6-2	225	Chester, SC	Chester HS
8	Darius Thompson	WR	Jr	6-2	190	Plainfield, NJ	Bluefield State
8	Aiden Weber	LB	Sr.	6-2	225	Leesport, PA	Delaware State
9	Malik Richardson	DL	Sr.	6-4	240	Sumter, SC	Western Carolina
9	Nick Sowell	WR	So.	6-6	205	Irmo, SC	Dutch Fork/Benedict
10	Dedrick Starkes	LB	Jr.	6-2	220	Columbia, SC	Irmo HS/Benedict
10	Tyler J. Smith	RB	Jr.	5-10	190	Gaffney, SC	Gaffney HS
11	Aaron Smith	LB	Gr.	6-2	230	Manning, SC	Manning HS
12	Nigel Johnson	WR	So.	6-5	200	Sumter, SC	Crestwood HS
12	Jarod Washington	DB	Sr.	6-2	188	Fredericksburg, VA	Benedict
13	Jordan Smith	WR	Jr.	5-11	180	Columbia, SC	Ridge View HS
14	Jaique Hart	QB	So.	6-2	198	Douglasville, GA	Bluefield State
15	TJ Moore	QB	Fr.	6-2	215	Deland, FL	Deland HS
16	Jaeon Allen	DB	So.	6-2	195	Beaufort, SC	May River HS
17	KZ Adams	RB	Jr.	5-8	185	West Columbia, SC	Georgia State
18	Mason Kidd	QB	r-Fr.	6-4	205	Lawrenceville, GA	Northern Illinois
19	Ashaad Hall	DL	Jr.	6-4	235	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Gibbs HS
*20	Demario Bookhart	DB	Fr.	6-1	175	Spartanburg, SC	Spartanburg HS
21	Marcus Samuels	DB	So.	6-1	180	Jacksonville, FL	Benedict
22	Dominic Howard	DB	So.	6-4	185	Orlando, FL	Tennessee Tech
23	Demetri Simmons	RB	Jr.	5-10	185	Goose Creek, SC	Goose Creek HS
24	Kwantre Harry	DB	Jr.	5-9	177	Bishopville, SC	Lee Central HS
25	Charron Dorsey	DB	Fr.	5-10	175	Jacksonville, FL	Ferris State
26	Jalen Levine	DB	r-So.	6-0	170	Walterboro, SC	Bryant University
27	Logan Jones	DB	Sr.	6-2	190	Charlotte, NC	Lehigh
28	Michael Brunson	DB	Sr.	5-9	165	St. Matthews, SC	Calhoun County
29	Jadin Jones	LB	Jr.	6-3	210	Jacksonville, FL	Camden County
30	Gavyn Zimmerman	K	Sr.	5-11	150	Sumter, SC	Crestwood HS
32	Josh Shaw	RB	So.	5-10	185	Hanahan, SC	Hanahan HS
*33	Kyle Gallegos	PK	So.	5-9	150	Fort Worth, TX	Arkansas
34	Dyson Roberts	P	Sr.	5-11	187	Sumter, SC	Sumter HS
35	Tyler Jones	DB	Fr.	6-3	200	Chapin, SC	Dutch Fork HS
36	Max 'Ceon Cobb	P	So.	5-10	185	Orlando, FL	Jones HS
37	Sean Artiss	DB	Jr.	6-1	185	Columbia, SC	Westwood HS
38	Adonis Davis, Jr.	LB	r-So.	6-0	225	Blackville, SC	Blackville-Hilda
*39	Dhani Dixon	RB	I-30. Jr.	5-9	205	Blythewood, SC	Blythewood HS
40	Jordan Dollard	DL	So.	6-5	260	Greensboro, NC	SE Guilford HS
<del>1</del> 0	Jordan Donard	DL	50.	0-3	200	GICCHSUUIU, INC	SL Juniora IIS

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM 0

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### **2024 SC State Bulldog Tentative Roster**

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	Previous School
41	John Hannibal	DL	Sr.	6-3	315	Hopkins, SC	Benedict
42	Hunter Puckett	DL	r-Fr.	6-3	245	Anderson, SC	Westside HS
43	Dylan Boone	TE	Jr.	6-5	235	Savannah, GA	Presbyterian
44	Rashawn Washington	DL	Jr.	6-3	280	Suffolk, VA	Hampton
45	DJ Bethea	LB	Jr.	6-2	205	Lake View, SC	Lake View HS
46	Jayvion Snow	LB	Sr.	6-0	215	Monks Corner, SC	Burke HS
47	Ka'Von Chisolm	DL	Fr.	6-5	260	Estill, SC	Hampton Co. HS
48	Jordan Franklin	LB	So.	6-2	205	Waynesboro, GA	Burke County (HS)
49	Khalil Ellis	TE	Sr.	6-3	235	Rock Hill, SC	York HS
50	Donqua Wilson	LB	So.	6-1	190	West Columbia, SC	Palmetto Prep
51	Moses Umoren	OL	So.	6-5	285	Columbus, GA	Carver HS (GA)
54	Konnor Lucas	LS	Fr.	5-11	170	Orlando, FL	First Academy
55	Gralyn Stokes	DL	Gr.	6-0	295	Jonesboro, GA	UAB/Long Island
56	Jake Maggio	LS	Sr.	5-10	185	Bridgewater, NJ	West Liberty
57	Joel Kashila	LB	Jr.	6-1	225	Rosenberg, TX	So. Connecticut St.
58	Tray Franklin	OL	So.	6-6	330	Columbia, SC	Ridge View HS
59	Omari Davis	DL	Fr.	6-3	215	Clover, SC	Clover HS
60	Lee Davis	OL	Jr.	6-1	295	Eastover, SC	Lower Richland
61	Nick Williams	OL	Jr.	6-5	300	North Augusta, SC	Fox Creek HS
62	Chandler Muller	OL	Sr.	6-3	305	Columbia, SC	Ridge View HS
63	Nehemiahus Wardlow	LB	So.	6-2	220	Greenwood, SC	Greenwood HS
65	Kanann Ligons	OL	So.	6-4	310	Batesburg SC	Ridge Spring-Monetta
67	Jeremie Brown	OL	Fr.	6-5	320	Anderson, SC	Westside HS
68	Wheslen McCleod	OL	Sr.	6-2	319	W. Columbia, SC	Grey Collegiate
70	Chris "Eli" Williams	OL	Fr.	6-6	280	Irmo, SC	Irmo HS
71	Roger Smith	OL	Jr.	6-4	340	Maple Heights, OH	Benedict
72	Ian Shark	OL	Sr.	6-3	325	Walterboro, SC	Colleton County
73	Cam Johnson	OL	Sr.	6-4	300	Irmo, SC	Dutch Fork HS
74	Joseph Johnson	OL	So.	6-9	305	Pickerington, OH	Benedict
76	Eric Brown, Jr.	OL	Sr.	6-3	305	Hartsville, SC	Hartsville HS
78	Nick Taiste	OL	Sr.	6-3	300	West Columbia, SC	White Knoll HS
79	Justin Jackson	OL	So.	6-5	320	Greenville, SC	Greenville HS
81	Evan Phillps	TE	Fr.	6-4	235	Graniteville, SC	Midland Valley HS
82	Zai Offord	WR	Fr.	5-11	170	Forest Acres, SC	Gray Collegiate
83	Shamontae Burgess	WR	Jr.	5-10	175	Lake City, SC	Lake City HS
84	Cyrus Ellison	WR	Jr.	6-4	225	Pamplico, SC	Hannah Pamplico
85	Nicholas Brown	TE	So.	6-2	218	Kingstree, SC	Kingstree HS
86	Khyon Smith	WR	Fr.	6-3	200	Goose Greek, SC	Bluefield State
87	Jaquarius Mayrant	WR	Fr.	6-1	165	Camden, SC	Camden HS
88	Rakim White	WR	Sr.	6-5	205	Bluffton, SC	Bluffton HS
89	Nehemiah Cochran	WR	Fr.	5-8	180	Woodruff, SC	Walsh University
*95	Chandler Robertson	DL	Jr.	6-1	290	Columbia, SC	Ridge View HS
96	Micaiah Settles	DL	So.	6-2	280	Columbia, SC	A.C. Flora HS
97	Jamaal McKinney	DL	Sr.	6-1	230	St. Stephens, SC	Savannah State
98	Octaveon Minter	DL	Sr.	6-2	295	Chester, SC	Chester HS
99	Jared Kirksey	DL	Sr.	6-2	245	Central, SC	Daniel HS

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OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

**MEAC CHAMPIONS:** 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; **HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

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END			
<b>#19 Ashaad Hall</b>	Jr.	6-4	235
#97 Jamaal McKinney	Sr.	6-1	230 .
TACKLE			
#0 Josh Barker	So.	5-9	255
#96 Micaiah Settles	Jr.	6-2	280
NOSE			
41 John Hannibal	Sr.	6-3	315
98 Octaveon Minter	Sr.	6-2	295
ANCHOR			
#1 Jayden Broughton	Sr.	6-2	235
#9 Malik Richardson	Sr.	6-4	240
WLB			
#7 Zan Dunham	Jr.	6-2	225
#29 Jadin Jones	Jr.	6-3	210
MLB			
#11 Aaron Smith	Gr.	6-2	230
#8 Aiden Weber	Sr.	6-2	225

SPUR			
<b>#4 Daythan Peterson</b>	Sr.	5-10	190
#24 Kwantre Harry	Jr.	5-9	177
BCB			
#5 Jamare Benjamin	Sr.	6-2	180
#21 Marcus Samuels	Fr.	6-1	180
ROVER			
#6 Brenyen Scott	Jr.	6-1	205
#12 Jarod Washington	Jr.	6-2	180
FREE			
#2 Diego Addison	Sr.	6-2	195
#35 Tyler Jones	Fr.	6-3	200
FCB			
#12 Jarod Washington	Sr.	6-1	188
#25 Charron Dorsey	Fr.	5-10	175

### **SC STATE OFFENSIVE DEPTH CHART**

X - WR			
#0 Caden High	So.	5-11	176
#9 Nick Sowell	So.	6-5	200
H - WR			
#1 Einaj Carter	Sr.	5-8	178.
#13 Jordan Smith	Jr.	5-11	180
Z – WR			
#6 Justin Smith-Brown	Sr.	6-1	190
#12 Nigel Johnson	So.	6-5	190
TE			
#5 Keshawn Toney	Gr.	6-3	255
#49 Khalil Ellis	Sr.	6-3	235
QB			
#7 Eric Phoenix	Sr.	6-3	210
#2 Ryan Stubblefield	Jr.	6-0	205
RB			
#10 Tyler J. Smith	Jr.	5-10	185
#3 Deondra Duehart	Jr.	6-0	215

Sr.	6-4	300
So.	6-4	285
Jr.	6-4	340
So.	6-4	315
Sr.	6-3	305
So.	6-1	295
Sr.	6-3	300
Sr.	6-3	305
So.	6-6	330
So.	6-9	305
	So.  Jr. So. Sr. So. Sr. So.	So. 6-4  Jr. 6-4  So. 6-4  Sr. 6-3  So. 6-1  Sr. 6-3  Sr. 6-3  Sr. 6-3

### **SC STATE SPECIAL TEAMS DEPTH CHART**

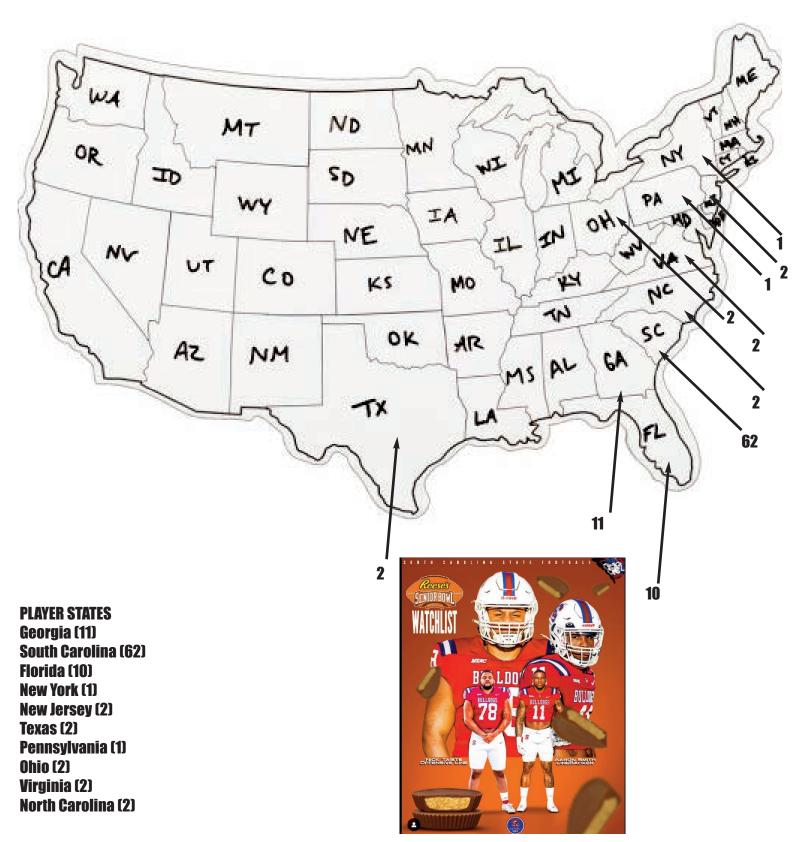
K			
#33 Kyle Gallegos	So.	5-9	150
#30 Gavyn Zimmerman	Sr.	5-11	150
P			
<b>#34 Dyson Roberts</b>	r-Jr.	5-11	187
#36 Max 'Ceon Cobb	So.	5-10	185

LS			
#54 Konnor Lucas	Fr.	5-11	170
#56 Jake Maggio	Sr.	5-10	185

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FOOTBALL COLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

# **BULLDOG PLAYER BREAKDOWN**



#### 2023 South Carolina State University Football Overall Statistics (as of Nov 19, 2023)

Team Statistics	SCSUF23	OPP
SCORING	268	283
Points Per Game	24.36	25.73
FIRST DOWNS	191	183
Rushing	113	78
Passing	64	90
Penalty	14	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	2478	1336
Yards gained	2595	1700
Yards lost	117	364
Attempts	426	380
Avg Per Attempt	5.8	3.5
Avg Per Game	225.3	121.5
TDs Rushing	21	15
PASSING YARDAGE	1396	2213
Att-Comp-Int	215-106-11	271-163-9
Avg Per Attempt	6.49	8.17
Avg Per Catch	13.17	13.58
Avg Per Game	126.91	201.18
TDs Passing	13	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	3874	3549
Total Plays	641	651
Avg Per Play	6.0	5.5
Avg Per Game	352.2	322.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YARDS	21-359	39-604
PUNT RETURNS: #-YARDS	21-147	16-165
INT RETURNS: #-YARDS	9-33	11-124
KICK RETURN AVERAGE	17.10	15.49
PUNT RETURN AVERAGE	7.00	10.31
INT RETURN AVERAGE	3.67	11.27
FUMBLES-LOST	11-9	12-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	51-477	58-485
Avg Per Game	43.36	44.09
PUNTS-YARDS	52-1961	47-1745
Avg Per Punt	37.71	37.13
-	32.62	
Net Punt Avg KICKOFFS-YARDS		33.57
	51-2465	57-3286
Avg Per Kick	48.33	57.65
Net Kick Avg	35.31	42.93
TIME OF POSSESSION	05:21:09	05:31:08
Per Game	29:12	30:06
3RD-DOWN CONVERSIONS	47-125	47-135
3rd-Down Pct	37.60%	34.81%
4TH-DOWN CONVERSIONS	6-15	8-16
4th-Down Pct	40.00%	50.00%
SACKS BY-YARDS	20-149	7-36
MISC YARDS	0	11
TOUCHDOWNS SCORED	36	36
FIELD GOALS-ATTEMPTS	6-6	11-15
ON-SIDE KICKS	2-2	0-0
RED-ZONE SCORES	22-30	28-37
RED-ZONE TOUCHDOWNS	17-30	20-37
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-36	34-36
ATTENDANCE	53,303	88,588
Dates-Avg Per Date	5-10,661	6-14,765
Neutral Site #-Avg	-	0-0

Conf	Date	Opponent	WL	Score	Record	Time	Attend
	08/26/2023	at Jackson St.	L	7-37	0-1 , 0-0	03:13	24,238
	09/02/2023	at Charlotte	L	3-24	0-2 , 0-0	03:02	15,622
	09/09/2023	at Georgia Tech	L	13-48	0-3 , 0-0	03:10	31,452
	9/23/2023	THE CITADEL	W	31-10	1-3	3:00	9,012
	10/7/2023	VIRGINIA LYNCHBURG	W	56-6	2-3	2:59	11,484
	10/14/2023	TENNESSEE TECH	L	7-28	2-4	3:01	5,969
*	10/21/2023	at Delaware State	W	35-7	3-4 , 1-0	2:47	6,300
*	10/26/2023	at N.C. Central	L	28-62	3-5 , 1-1	03:27	7,889
*	11/4/2023	HOW(1)~1	W	27-24	4-5 , 2-1	3:17	22,269
	11/11/2023	BEARS	L	17-20	4-6 , 2-2	3:05	4,569
*	11/18/2023	at Norfolk State	W	44-17	5-6 , 3-2	03:10	3,087

<sup>\* =</sup> Conference game

Score by Quarters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
South Carolina St.	56	89	75	48	268
Opponents	52	87	83	61	283



MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

## KEY RETURNERS FOR THE BULLDOGS

#### **DEFENSE (LB)**

#### Aaron Smith 6-2 220 Manning, SC Graduate

Second team All- MEAC selection and leader of the Bulldog defense for the past two seasons. Led SC State in tackles with 63.0 (47 solo), 11 Tackles for loss for 51-yards, 5.0 sacks for 35-yards, and two (2) quarterback hurries.

Secondary

#### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

#### Nick Taiste 6-2 295 West Columbia SC R-Senior

First Team All-MEAC selection and anchor on the offensive line. Appeared in all 11-games for the Bulldogs last season. One of three SCSU teammates (full names of other 2 Brown, Jr and Johnson) with 36 starts in three seasons each for SC State.

#### Eric Brown, Jr. 6-3 336 Hartsville, SC R-Senior

A second team All-MEAC selection and anchor on the offensive line, Brown appeared in all 11-games for the Bulldogs last season, joining teammates (full names Taiste and Johnson) with 36 starts in three seasons each for SC State.

#### Cam Johnson 6-4 300 Irmo, SC R-Senior

Second team All-MEAC selection and anchor on the offensive line. Appeared in all 11-games for the Bulldogs last season. Is one of three Bulldog lineman (Taiste and Brown , Jr.) who have started 36 games each in three seasons for SC State.

#### **DEFENSE (DB)**

#### Jamare Benjamin 6-2 185 Spartanburg, SC R-Senior

The top returner for the Bulldogs in the secondary this season for first-year head coach Chennis Berry. Had an impressive spring for SC State and rated as the top defensive back by his position coach. Posted a breakout season in 2023 ranked among the top defenders in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) with three (3) interceptions for 22-yards along with 41 solo tackles and 44 total, five (5) pass breakups and one quarterback hurry in 11-games played.



#### WIDE RECEIVERS

#### Justin Smith-Brown 6-1 190 Coco, Fla. R-Senior

All- MEAC Second Team selection for the Bulldogs in 2023 led the team in receiving with 22 catches for 427-yards and three (3) touchdowns with an average of 16.40 ypc and 54.67 yards per game with a long of 52-yards.

#### **TIGHT END**

#### Keyshawn Toney 6-3 250 Williston, SC Graduate

First Team All-MEAC selection. Finished the 2023 campaign with 20 catches for 244-yards (12.20 ypc) and five (5) touchdowns, averaging 22.18 yards per game receiving in 11-games played.

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUN

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

### **BULLDOGS TO WATCH IN 2024**

#### **QUARTERBACK**

Eric Phoenix 6-3 205 Savannah, GA Benedict College|Murray State

A transfer from Murray State looking to make an immediate impact at the quarterback position for the Bulldogs this season. Played for new head coach Chennis Berry while at Benedict from 2019-22. Led Benedict to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship in 2022, the first in program history. Benedict finished a perfect 10-0 season in 2022 and advanced to the NCAA D-II postseason. Was named All-SIAC quarterback twice. In three seasons, appeared in 28 games at quarterback where he passed for 4,400 yards on 343-440 with 32 touchdowns and 18 interceptions. In rushing, had 28 carries for 166 yards and eight touchdowns and in 2022, he passed for 2,051 yards on 167-260 with 15 touchdowns and six interceptions. Had a season-high 313 yards passing (19-of-29) with two touchdowns vs Tuskegee.

#### **RUNNING BACK**

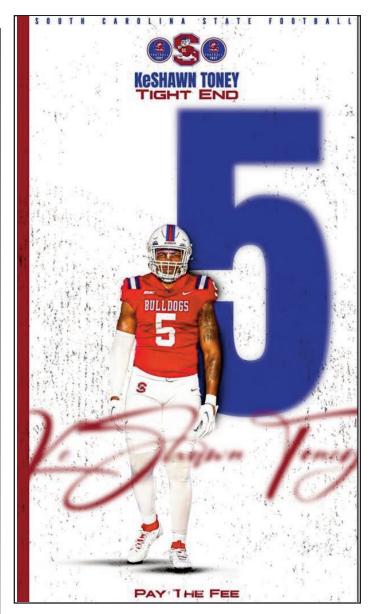
Deondra Duehart 6-0 215 Macon, GA Benedict College Junior

Had an impressive spring for the Bulldogs after transferring from Benedict College where he spent two seasons as the team's top rusher. A hard-nose runner and All SIAC performer for the Tigers in 2023, carried the ball 129 times for 609-yards and seven (7) touchdowns, averaging 4.72 yards per carry. Also had eight (8) receptions for 45-yards, averaging 5.63 yards per reception. In 2022, finished the season with 28 carries for 543-yards and nine (9) touchdowns with a long of 76-yards as a freshman. Also caught eight (8) passes for 50-yards.

#### **RUNNING BACK**

Kazarius "KZ" Adams 5-8 185 West Columbia, SC Georgia State R-So.

Part of a dual threat who posted an impressive spring for the Bulldogs after transferring from Georgia State. Talented running back who is small in stature but very elusive. Was rated as one of the Top offensive newcomers at Georgia State in their 2023 Spring Game, Adams rushed for four (4) touchdowns and 152-yards on the ground. An Academic All-American. During his prep career, LED THE NATION in rushing with 3,343 yards and 42 touchdowns to lead Gray Collegiate Academy to the South Carolina Class 2A state title ... Finalist for the Mr. Football award in South Carolina ... Gained 311 yards in the state championship win over Silver Bluff ... His 3,343 yards in 2021 are be



lieved to be the state record for a single season ... The No. 2 all-time rusher in South Carolina history ... Named the Class 2A Upper State Back of the Year on the 2021 Palmetto Champions team ... Three-time All-State selection by the South Carolina Football Coaches Association, including first-team honors in 2021 ... Chosen for the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, North vs. South All-Star Game. ... Outstanding student with a 4.5 GPA.

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM OLIVER C. DAWSON STAD

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

## **BULLDOGS TO WATCH IN 2024**

# WIDE RECEIVER Caden High 5-10 160 Loganville, GA Benedict College So.

One of the top receivers in this year's Bulldog newcomer class after transferring in from Benedict College after one season. The top receiver for the Tigers in 2023, and an All-SIAC performer, led BC with 47-catches for 791-yards and nine (9) touchdowns. Scored on a 70-yard touchdown reception against Shaw. Averaged 16.62 yards per reception. Had eight (8) carries for 66-yards, an 8.25 average per rush.

### DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

# Jayden Broughton 6-2, 230 Monks Corner, SC Benedict College Sr.

One of the top defensive linemen in this year's Bulldog new-comer class after transferring from Benedict where he spent three years with the Tigers. An All-SIAC & All-American performer for BC, he appeared in 30 games over his career, recording 54 solos, 82 total tackles, 36 Tackles for Loss for 178-yards and 18.5 sacks for 130-yards for a nationally-ranked defense that captured back-to-back SIAC Titles and was rated as the No.1 defensive in the country. Broughton also finished with five (5) pass deflections, five (5) forced fumbles, one (1) fumble recovery and one (1) interception to add to his resume.

#### **RETURN SPECIALIST**

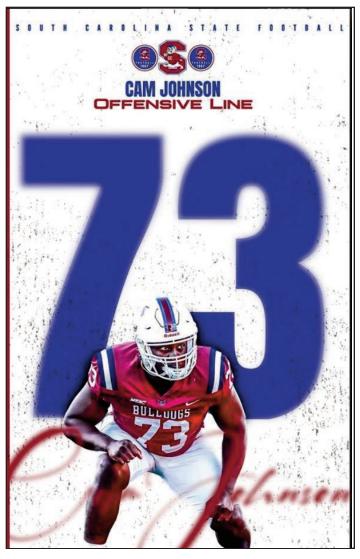
#### Einaj Carter 5-8 166 Poughkeepsie, NY East Tennessee Savannah State Senior

A transfer wide receiver/return specialist from East Tennessee State University. Will fill that much-needed void for returning punts and kicks for the Bulldogs this season. Saw limited action in 2023, appearing in only three (3) games, During the 2022 season, played in 10 games, making eight starts in his first season with the Bucs ... Finished the season with 30 catches for 436 yards and four touchdowns, while adding three carries for 46 yards and one score ... Also had two kickoff returns for 43 yards ... Recorded at least two receptions in nine games ... Had three receptions for a season-high 87 yards and two touchdowns against Furman ... Had a 75-yard touchdown reception for the longest catch of his career ... Posted three catches for 73 yards and a touchdown at Robert Morris ... Hauled in five catches for 44 yards and a touchdown at VMI ... Had a season-high six receptions (54 yards) at Mercer, and a 46-yard rushing touchdown to go with two catches for 39 yards at Wofford ... Posted four catches for 73 yards vs. Western Carolina. Before ETSU transferred from Savannah State ... Named SIAC Freshman of the Year in 2019 ... First Team All-Conference in 2020 and 2021 ... Rushed for 109 yards vs. Clark Atlanta (Oct. 16, 2021), including a long of 73 yards.

#### **OFFENSIVE LINE**

# Roger Smith 6-4 315 Cleveland, Ohio Benedict| Junior

One of the most talented offensive linemen in this year's transfer class and two-time SIAC performer at left guard for Benedict. Played both seasons for the Tigers with 24 consecutive starts, recording over 50 pancake blocks with a grade of 88%. Led BC to back-to-back SIAC Championships and a national ranking with total offensive numbers in passing and rushing as an anchor on the offensive front.





# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FOOTBALL OUVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

# **SC STATE RECORD BOOKS**

#### OFFENSIVE TOTAL OFFENSE

Game 387 Yds Brett Young vs. Morgan State (2004) Season 2,916 Marvin Marshall (1994) Career 6,840 Malcolm Long (2007-10)

#### **RUSHING ATTEMPTS**

Game 41 Derek O'Neal vs. Bethune-Cookman (1999) Season 297 Derek O'Neal (1999)

#### TOTAL YARDS RUSHING

Career 763 Will Ford (2006-09)

Game 322 Will Ford vs. NC A&T (2007) Season 1,648 Kenny Bynum (1996) Career 4,660 Will Ford (2006-09)

#### **RUSHING AVERAGE**

Game 164.8 Kenny Bynum (1996) Career 127.9 Michael Hicks (1993-96)

#### **RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**

Game 6 Henry Odom vs. Morgan State (1980) Season 22 Michael Hicks (1996) Career 51 Michael Hicks (1993-96)

#### 100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

Season 8 Will Ford (2008) 7 Kenny Bynum (1996) Michael Hicks (1993, 1995) DeShawn Baker (2006) Will Ford (2007)

#### **BEST AVERAGE PER CARRY**

Game 8.5 Nate Rivers (1977) Career 6.5 Ricky Anderson (1974-77)

#### **PASSING YARDS**

Game 419 Richard Cue vs. Howard (NA) Season 2507 Malcom Long (2009) Career 6,363 Malcom Long (2007.-10)

#### **PASS COMPLETIONS**

Game 30 Corey Fields, Jr. vs. New Mexico St. (2021) Season 210 Malcom Long vs. Winston-Salem State (2009) Career 423 Corey Fields, Jr. (2018-Present)

#### PASS ATTEMPTS

Game 47 Corey Fields, Jr. vs. New Mexico St. (2021) Season 325 Malcolm Long (2009) Career 961 Malcolm Long (2007-2010)

#### TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Game 5 Tyrece Nick vs. Delaware State (2019) (2003)

Malcolm Long vs. Morgan State (2009) Richard Cue vs. Savannah State (2013) Season 20 Malcolm Long (2009) Career 46 Malcolm Long (2007-2010)

# COMPLETION PERCENTAGE (Min. 100 Attempts)

Season .646 (210-325) Malcolm Long (2009) Career .593 (TDB) Malcolm Long (2007-

Career .593 (TDB) Malcolm Long (2007-2010)

#### **TOTAL RECEPTIONS**

Game 12 Lennel Elmore vs. Miss. Valley St. (2010) Season 70 Tavarus Morgan (2003) Career 154 Tyler McDonald (2010-13)

#### YARDS RECEIVING

Game 230 Charlie Brown vs. Morris Brown (1980) Season 995 Oliver (Tre') Young (2009) Career 2,719 Shaquan Davis (2019-22)

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# **SC STATE RECORD BOOKS**

#### **TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS**

Game 5 De'Montrez Burroughs vs. Howard (2019)

Season 13 Freddie Solomon (1994) 13 De'Montrez Burroughs (2016-19) Career Shaquan Davis 29 (2019-22)

#### YARDS PER RECEPTION

Game 50.5 Terrence Metcalf vs. Savannah State (2002) Season 85.3 De'Montrez Burroughs (2019) Career 25.1 Charlie Brown (1977-80)

#### FIELD GOALS MADE

Game 4 Tyler Scandrett (2017) vs Johnson C. Smith Richard Dix vs. Morgan State Malcolm Montgomery vs. Newberry (1976) Season 18 Blake Erickson (2009) Career 35 Blake Erickson (2008-2010) Longest 52 Cedric Oglesby vs. Delaware State (2010)

#### TOTAL POINTS

Game 36 Henry Odom vs. Morgan State (1980) Season 132 Michael Hicks (1994) Career 316 Michael Hicks (1993-95)

#### TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS

Game 6 Henry Odom vs. Morgan State (1980)

Season 22 Michael Hicks (1994) Career 53 Cleveland McCoy (2004-07)

# DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Game 20 Harry Carson vs. Newberry (1975)

Season 131 Joe Montford (1993)

Career 394 Darius Leonard (2014-17)

#### **SACKS**

Game 6 Javon Hargrave vs. BethuneCookman (2014)

Season 22.5 Chatric Darby (1998) Career 45.5 Chatric Darby (1995-98)

#### **INTERCEPTIONS**

Game 4 Ricky Hill vs. Southern (1991) Season 9 Ricky Hill (1990) Career 19 Ricky Hill (1988-91)

#### **PUNTING**

Longest 80 yds.Alonzo Braddy vs. Alcorn State (1980) Highest Average Season 40.5 yds. (52 punts) Alonzo Braddy (1980) Career 39.9 yds. (71 punts) Frank Zeigler (1998-2000)



Former Bulldog linebacker Shaquille Leonard became the school's Career All-Time Leading Tackler (394) and was selected with the 36th pick overall in the 2018 NFL Draft by the Indianapolis Colts.



OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM

**MEAC CHAMPIONS:** 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; **HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

# MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY















OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIU

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976,1977,1981,1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

# **HEAD COACH-CHENNIS BERRY**

Chennis Berry was named head football coach at South Carolina State University on December 16th, 2023. The former Benedict College (Columbia, SC) head coach succeeded the iconic Coach Oliver "Buddy" Pough, the winningest coach in Bulldog football history who retired as head football coach at the end of the 2023 season after 22 seasons at the helm and 151 wins.

"Go Bulldogs," Berry said at the press conference announcing his hiring. "My family and I are super excited to be joining the SC State Bulldog family. The proud history, tradition, and commitment to excellence, both on and off the field, are the driving forces to our excitement! It's a great day to be a Bulldog."

No stranger to Historically Black College, Berry takes over at SC State after three seasons at Benedict where he amassed a 27–7 record, went undefeated in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and earned postseason berths in the Division II playoffs each of the last two seasons.

Prior to his stint at Benedict, he served seven seasons from 2013-19 as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Southern University. The Jaguars had a winning record every season and the offense under Berry's guidance set numerous schools and SWAC conference records.



His coaching resume also includes stops at Howard University, North Carolina A&T, Morris Brown, Kentucky State and Fort Valley State. He also served internships with six different NFL teams.

While at Southern, Berry helped direct one of the most prolific offenses in the country. The Jaguars led the SWAC in rushing and ranked 13th in the nation. Southern also averaged more than 33 points per game, ranking 25th in the nation in scoring. In 2016, the Jaguars ranked fifth in the nation in scoring with 39.8 points per game and were 11th nationally in total offense. Individually, running back Lenard Tillery set the SWAC single- season rushing record and became the all-time leading runner in conference history. As an offensive line coach, Berry guided the Jaguars to no

lower than 12th in the nation in sacks allowed three seasons. During his time at Southern, Berry mentored ten offensive linemen who earned All-SWAC recognition and five who garnered All-America honors.

Before joining Southern, Berry spent two seasons from 2011-12 as the co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Howard University. The offensive line was key to the Bison success as Howard finished second in the MEAC with a 365.4 yards per game average. Howard was also second in the league in rushing with 221.5 yards per game. Those accomplishments led to four Howard offensive linemen earning All-MEAC honors, and the offensive line blocked for the MEAC's leading rusher.

Prior to Howard, Berry served two years from 2009-10 as the associate head coach/offensive coordinator/offensive line coach at North Carolina A&T. Berry's offense had one of the top rushing attacks in the MEAC during both his seasons with the Aggies. He also had one of his early coaching stops at N.C. A&T, serving as offensive line coach from 2003-05. Over his first two seasons with the Aggies, he served as the offensive line coach. A strong running game led the Aggies to the 2003 MEAC Championship and a NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision playoff berth.

OLIVER C. DAWSON 4, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975,

MEAC CHAMPIONS: 2021, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 1994, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, 1974; HBCU(BLACK COLLEGE) NATIONAL CHAMPIONS: 1976, 1977, 1981, 1982, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2021

As part of the NFL's Minority Internship Program, Berry interned with six different NFL teams, including the Jacksonville Jaguars, Indianapolis Colts, Cleveland Browns, Detroit Lions, San Diego Chargers and Chicago Bears. In 2009, he participated in the NCAA Expert Coaches Academy Forum. The program prepares young minority assistant coaches for head coaching positions.

Berry served as Morgan State's offensive coordinator and offensive line coach from 2006-2008. During Berry's time there, the Bears possessed one of the most envied running games in the MEAC. In each of his three seasons with Morgan State, the Bears' rushing offense ranked in the top 50 nationally.

Berry began his career at Morris Brown College in Atlanta in 1996 where he coached under Joe Crosby. After one season with Morris Brown, Berry became the offensive line and tight ends coach, as well as the strength and conditioning coordinator, at Kentucky State under George Small in 1997.

Behind Berry's strong offensive line at Kentucky State, Alvon Brown broke several school and national Division II records. Brown broke the single-season rushing record at KSU twice and finished his career as the school's all-time leading rusher. He also rushed for 405 yards in a game on September 16, 2000, which at the time, was a Division II single-game record. Berry's offensive line also



helped Brown win the SIAC Player and Back of the Year awards on two occasions.

In 2001, Berry became the assistant head coach at Fort Valley State. He was responsible for coaching the Wildcats' offensive linemen and tight ends. His impact at FVSU was immediately felt as Philip Shiflet earned SIAC Offensive Lineman of the Year and first-team Sheridan All-Americans honors in 2001.

Berry holds a master's degree in public administration from Kentucky State University and received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Savannah State University. As a player at Savannah State, he earned First Team All-SIAC accolades at offensive tackle and was named a Black College Honorable Mention All-American in 1994. He also served as Savannah State's team captain.

Berry is married to Mrs. Ramille Berry and they have has four children, Jasmin, Mia, Chennis III and Channing.

